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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/647,472

08/26/2003

Lawrence M. Burns

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26111

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08/12/2004

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/647,472	Applicant(s) BURNS ET AL.	
	Examiner Jimmy Nguyen	Art Unit 2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2003.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1- 4, 9, 11 - 14, 19 is/are rejected.
 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 - 8, 10, 15-18, 20 is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0704</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 - 4, 9, 11 – 14, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuttle (US 6357025).

As to claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, Tuttle discloses (fig 3) a method and system of monitoring an integrated circuit chip, comprising:

(a) receiving at least one digitized sense signal (the signal that receive from the power circuitry 80) from the integrated circuit chip (12), whereby the at least one digitized sense signal represents a corresponding process-dependent parameter (the voltage value) within the integrated circuit chip (12) ; and

(b) determining an analog value for the at least one process dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit (12) and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit.

The only thing that possible different is the signal that receives from the sense circuit is an analog signal. However, it would have been obvious to one having an

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the signal from analog to digital or reverse for the purpose of matching the operation the IC.

As to claims 2, 12, Tuttle discloses (fig 3) a method wherein steps (a) and (b) are perform outside of the ic (could be performed at the interrogator unit 20).

As to claims 9, 19, Tuttle discloses (fig 3) at least one digitized sense signal represents a power supply voltage on the integrated circuit chip (12).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5 - 8, 10, 15 – 18, 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior arts of record are fail to disclose the combination of the base claim with one digitized sense signal includes a plurality of digitized sense signals that represent a plurality of the following:

- a gate-to-source threshold voltage of a transistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip;

- a transconductance parameter of a transistor fabricated on integrated circuit chip;

- a sheet resistance of a resistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip;

- a temperature of the integrated circuit chip; and

Art Unit: 2829


a power supply voltage on the integrated circuit chip.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen at 571-272-1965. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

JN.

July 23, 2004


DAVID ZARNEK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
8/6/04